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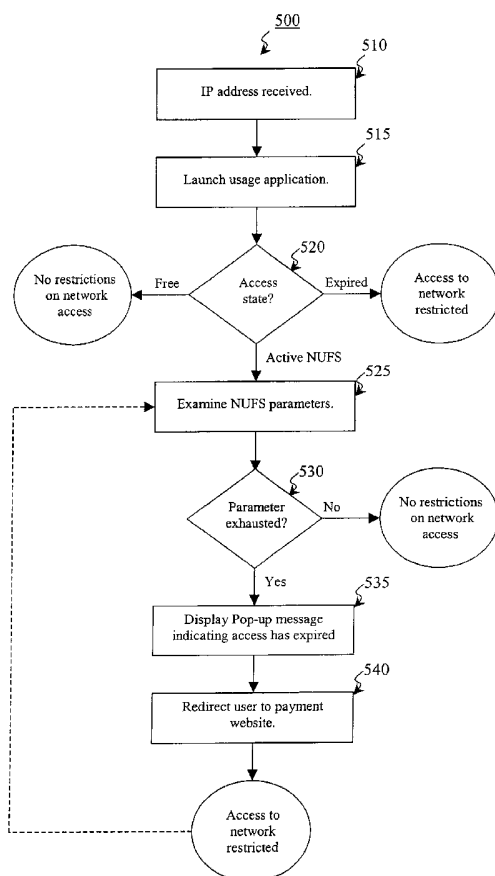
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: SELF-MANAGED NETWORK ACCESS USING LOCALIZED ACCESS MANAGEMENT



(57) Abstract: The invention provides a method and system for locally tracking network usage and enforcing usage plans at a client device. In an embodiment of the invention, a unique physical key, or token, is installed at a client device of one or more networks. The key comprises a usage application (515) and one or more access parameters (525) designated the conditions and/or limits of a particular network usage plan. Upon initial connection to the network, the usage application grants or denies access to the network based on an analysis of the current values of the access parameters. Therefore, network usage tracking and enforcement is made simple and automatic without requiring any back-end servers on the network while still providing ultimate flexibility in changing billing plans for any number of users at any time.

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : G06F 11/30, 17/60

US CL : 713/200, 201, 202; 705/52

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 713/200,201,202; 705/52

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 6,571,221 B1 (STEWART et al) 27 May 2003 (27.05.2003), abstract, column 2 line 43 - column 4 line 35.	1-23
Y, P	US PUB 2002/0169712 A1 (GINZBOORG et al) 14 November 2002 (14.11.2002), abstract, paragraphs [0009] - [0013].	1-9
A	US PUB 2002/0021665 A1 (BHAGAVATH et al) 21 February 2002 (21.02.2002), abstract, paragraphs [0011] - [0014].	1, 9
A	US PUB 2002/0129143 A1 (MCKINNON, III et al) 12 September 2002 (12.09.2002), abstract, paragraphs [0018]-[0021].	1-9
Y, P	US PUB 2002/0157090 A1 (ANTON, JR.) 24 October 2002 (24.10.2002), figures 1-3, paragraphs [0001]-[0031].	10-23
A, P	US 6,611,821 B2 (STAHL et al) 26 August 2003 (26.08.2003), abstract, column 1 line 22 - column 2 line 55.	1-9
A, T	US PUB 2004/0023639 A1 (NOEL, JR.) 5 February 2004 (05.02.2004), abstract, paragraphs [0002]-[0015].	1-12

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	"&" document member of the same patent family
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